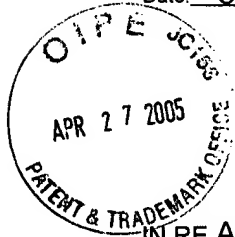


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date: April 25, 2005

By: Jennifer Mahoney  
Jennifer Mahoney



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Higer, et al.

APPLICATION No.: 10/897,570

FILED: July 23, 2004

FOR: **VACUUM SEALING SYSTEM WITH A  
SEALING ELEMENT INSIDE AN  
EVACUATION CHAMBER**

EXAMINER: Unassigned

ART UNIT: 3721

CONF. No.: 4155

**Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months  
of Application Filing or Before First Action – 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Timing of Submission

This information disclosure is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever occurs last (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)). The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

2. Cited Information

☒ The following cited references are enclosed:

☒ All cited references except U.S. patents and publications.

3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h))

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the

cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment

No fees are believed due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action.

However, should the Commissioner determine that fees are due in order for this Information Disclosure Statement to be considered, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2207.

5. Patent Term Adjustment (37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d))

- ☐ The undersigned states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d).

Respectfully submitted,  
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: Apr. 12 2005

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
Form PTO-1449 (Modified)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)



**COMPLETE IF KNOWN**

Application Number	10/897,570
Confirmation Number	4155
Filing Date	July 23, 2004
First Named Inventor	Higer, <i>et al.</i>
Group Art Unit	3721
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket No.	37469-8019.US01

Sheet 1 of 3

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
		1143579		Denhard	06/15/15	
		2079069		Johnson	05/04/37	
		2319011		Meredith	05/11/43	
		2354423		Rosenberger	07/25/44	
		2421149		Hard, <i>et al.</i>	05/27/47	
		2568226		Drake	09/18/51	
		2617304		Conover	11/11/52	
		2749686		Lorenz, <i>et al.</i>	06/12/56	
		2778171		Taunton	01/22/57	
		2899786		Harker	08/18/59	
		3038283		Unger	06/12/62	
		3148269		Van Hartesveldt, <i>et al.</i>	09/08/64	
		3464256		Lloyd	09/02/69	
		3516223		Andersen, <i>et al.</i>	06/23/70	
		3688463		Titchenal	09/05/72	
		3699742		Giraudi	10/24/72	
		3928938		Burrell	12/30/74	
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		3965646		Hawkins	06/29/76	
		4006329		Hellman, <i>et al.</i>	02/01/77	
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		4372096		Baum	02/08/83	
		4541224		Mugnai	09/17/85	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application(s).

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

**COMPLETE IF KNOWN**

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Attorney Docket No.	37469-8019.US01

Sheet **2** of **3**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
		4549387		Marshall, <i>et al.</i>	10/29/95	
		4545177		Day	10/08/85	
		4561925		Skerjanec, <i>et al.</i>	12/31/85	
		4578928		Andre, <i>et al.</i>	04/01/86	
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		4631512		Hishiki, <i>et al.</i>	12/23/86	
		4641482		Metz	02/10/87	
		4928829		Di Bernardo	05/29/90	
		5048269		Deni	09/17/91	
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		6694710		Wang	02/24/04	
		6124558		Baumeister, <i>et al.</i>	09/26/00	

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				Application Number	10/897,570
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				Filing Date	July 23, 2004
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				Group Art Unit	3721
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	3	of	3	Attorney Docket No.	37469-8019.US01

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent or Application			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office	NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)				
		JP	05-10211		-	02/09/93		
		JP	2000-43818		Nakanishi	02/15/00		A

OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		T

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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